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Union Labor News All Over the World

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—The 1911 agreement with the motormen and conductors expires April 30. The men at present get from 23½ cents an hour to 29½ cents an hour, according to the length of time they have been employed. Their days are eight and a half hours. There are only one or two runs that average as much as nine and a half and ten hours a day. In a notice posted recently by the company, the fact is set forth that the company is not satisfied with the cost of transportation for the last year; complaint is made of lack of co-operation and courtesy to passengers on the part of conductors; hint is given of a cut in wages or a reduction of the force, and the desire is expressed that a committee be appointed to confer with the management.

Cleveland, O.—The A. F. of L. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' union won a complete victory in the court decision given in the controversy with the so-called Reid faction. John J. McLaughlin of this city, a former international officer, was one of the most important witnesses for the A. F. of L. Brotherhood. Peter W. Collins, the general secretary-treasurer, whose decisions were approved by the court, is a Chelsea man and a former president of the Boston C. L. U.

San Francisco.—The Photo Engravers' union has received from international headquarters a statement which shows that during 1911 there were issued six charters to new subordinates; there was a gain of 277 members; that there were four strikes, one of which was won and three are pending. The cost of the strikes was \$24,463. During that period the amount paid in benefits to unemployed was \$27,414, benefits to sick members, \$5,355, and mortuary benefits, \$2,125.

Washington.—Reports as to conditions in the coal mines of the United States for the five years preceding the first of the current year show that in the bituminous mines there were 2,870 fatal accidents, leaving 1,500 widows and 3,122 orphans, and that in the anthracite coal fields there were 3,182 fatal accidents, leaving 1,761 widows and 4,124 orphans, making a total during that period of 3,261 widows and 7,246 orphans.

San Francisco.—The Socialist party of South San Francisco has adopted resolutions requesting the state executive board of the Socialist party of California to circulate a petition through the state for signatures, to initiate a law for the purpose of abolishing all privately owned employment agencies and the establishment of free state employment bureaus in lieu thereof.

Boston.—The new union of Greater Boston Telephone Operators gained 142 members recently. It is stated that the effort of the organization for the present will be confined to making the union a 100 per cent. organization and then a request for better wages and a correction of the working hours now complained of by the girls, will be discussed and decided upon.

London, Eng.—The British trades boards act has now been extended to the boxmaking trade. A minimum rate of six cents an hour has been fixed, with 52 hours a week, making a weekly wage of \$3.25. This seems an extremely small wage, yet it is a large advance over the miserable pittance which has been paid heretofore by employers.

Chattanooga, Tenn.—The annual meeting of the southern conference on woman and child labor will convene here in April. Reports already received indicate the largest gathering in the history of this association, and recent events promise more results than have yet been achieved in this work.

Boston.—June 1 has been the date decided upon for the request of an increase of five cents an hour in wages by the Boston bricklayers and stone-masons' unions to take effect. May 1 had been originally suggested as the date for it to become effective.

San Francisco.—United Laborers' union, No. 1, discussed the alleged action of many union men employing non-union laborers to do odd jobs about their homes instead of sending to the union for such help.

San Francisco.—Some 350 men and women injured while at work have been assisted in securing adequate compensation by the state industrial accident board of California during the last three months.

Fort Worth, Tex.—Plumbers obtained an advance of 50 cents a day this year and will have another 50-cent increase the two years following, this including every shop in the city.

Washington.—The bill limiting labor on government work by private contractors to eight hours a day was ordered favorably reported from the senate committee on education and labor. The bill already has passed the house. No amendments were offered by the senate committee.

Kansas City, Mo.—A territorial organization of the union railroad shopmen employed by all the railroads west and south of Chicago, aggregating more than 100,000 men, was perfected at a meeting of the union representatives here. The boiler-makers, blacksmiths, machinists, carmen and sheet metal workers form the new organization. "It is the aim of the organization to unite all the mechanical trades on all railroads west and south of Chicago so concentrated action may be taken when disputes arise," J. A. Franklin, international president of the boiler-makers, said. Other union officials said the organization was necessary to combat the railroad managers' association so the unions can deal jointly with the railroads when controversies arise.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The present season has been a good one for members of the International Union of United Brewery Workmen, as, according to Joseph Obergfell, of this city, a member of the international executive board of the brewery workers, about 12,000 of the 48,000 members of the union have gained advances in wage scales. Also about fifty wage contracts will expire May 1, and some will expire in June, and Obergfell expects that when these expire the workmen affected will fare equally as well as others have in the last few weeks.

Boston.—Boston C. L. U. has sent a petition to congress asking that it make an investigation of the production, transportation and sale of coal, including wages, cost price and profit, to whom the profits are distributed, and also as to whether or not there is any criminal restraint of trade in the conduct of the business. It also asks that in case of a strike, congress take possession and continue the mines and coal-carrying railroads in operation as a means of protecting the public.

Boston.—Building Laborers' District council, which includes all the unions of Boston, Cambridge and Brookline, voted to recommend to the locals that a wage increase of five cents an hour be asked for on June 1. As some misunderstanding has existed over the terms of the last schedule and some employers took advantage of a technicality in its wording, the council definitely states that the new rates it recommends for June 1 are 40 cents an hour for building men and 35 cents an hour for excavators.

New York.—John P. White of Indianapolis, Ind., president of the United Mine Workers of America, made a favorable impression at the conferences held with the anthracite operators. He is almost six feet tall, broad-shouldered and blue-eyed, with clean-cut features and a shock of hair that is just beginning to gray. He is in the early forties and is a good talker.

Boston.—Five hundred employees of the Roxbury Carpet company struck when their demands for a ten per cent. increase in wages were denied. Most of the strikers are women and are employed in the weaving and drum department of the mills. About six hundred persons work in the mill and the strikers were confident that most of the operatives would join them.

Sydney, N. S. W.—In Australia the New South Wales labor government, in defiance of the trades hall, whence it draws the bulk of its support, has decided to import 2,000 laborers from Britain, mostly navvies and bridge carpenters, who are wanted in pursuance of the government's active policy on public works.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Carl Legien, the head of organized labor in German reichstag, and Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, and possibly Samuel Gompers, its president, will be prominent among the guests of honor at the Union Labor Forward Movement here.

Boston.—A convention of the representatives of the railroad clerks of all the 15 great railroad systems east of Buffalo and north of Pennsylvania was held here. It was decided that a wage increase and new working hours regulations be submitted at once to all roads within the jurisdiction.

Upper Sandusky, O.—The entire force of the National Lime and Stone company, at Carey, went on a strike on account of dissatisfaction with a foreman. Strike-breakers brought from Toledo went back on the next train because they could not get accommodations in the town.

London, Eng.—The total funds of the Boot and Shoe Operatives' union of Great Britain now amount to \$669,666, which is a gain in the last half year of \$23,000. The membership of the union is 32,925.

Chicago.—The International Boiler Makers' union during the last year has organized 18 branch locals and re-organized four locals that had surrendered their charters. Altogether it was the most successful year in the history of the union.

Woodville, N. H.—A. W. Bailey of this city has been elected as chairman of the B. & M. R. R. system board of

Ottawa, Canada.—The appointment of a permanent industrial commission is being considered by the Canadian minister of labor.

London, Eng.—Medland Hall, Stepney, a London relief organization instituted in a small way in 1891 by a few young clerks in an Australian merchant's office, has sheltered 3,000,000 homeless men in its 21 years of existence, at a total cost of \$135,000.

London, Eng.—Sixty per cent. of the adult workers of Great Britain receive less than \$7.50 weekly wages.

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When a girl makes up her mind to marry a man an easy way for him to escape is by getting run over by a railroad train.

London.—At the end of 1910 there were 605 registered trade unions in the United Kingdom, with a membership of above two million. These totals compare with a membership of 211,091 in 156 unions in 1880.

Paris, France.—The chamber of deputies passed a bill providing for an eight-hour day for coal miners. It is believed that this action will remove the possibility of a general strike in the coal fields.

Leominster, Mass.—Carpenters have reduced hours from 10 to 8 and increased wages from \$2 to \$3.25 per day.

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